

The Mission of God

God calls: a people for mission
Sunday 26 February



Review:

Different members of the group could read one of these references in advance of the group meeting and share a brief summary of what is written.

1. Old Testament priests - Exodus 19:3-6, (Exodus 28 and 40)
2. New Testament royal priesthood - 1 Peter 2:4-10
3. Jesus – our great High Priest – Hebrews 8 and 9
4. Setting God's People Free - A Report from the Archbishops' Council prepared by the members of the Lay Leadership Task Group.

The report, which was enthusiastically received and unanimously passed by Synod earlier this month, recognizes the need for two clear shifts in the core culture of the church:

1. Until, together, ordained and lay, we form and equip lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel we will never set God's people free to evangelise the nation.

2. Until laity and clergy are convinced, based on their baptismal mutuality, that they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission, we will never form Christian communities that can evangelise the nation.

https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3858033/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free.pdf?mc_cid=092dd45716&mc_eid=9d4115dc1e



Discuss:

1. If the Old Testament priesthood was a working model of worship in heaven (Hebrews 9) what is our role today as 'a royal priesthood'?
2. How can we each minister as priests in the spheres God has given us? Think of practical examples – praying, caring and sharing.
3. What could the synod report mean for us at St John's? How do we need to be equipped? In what ways do we need to think differently?



Pray:

1. For the clergy and PCC at St John's
2. For each other as 'a royal priesthood'
3. For the groups of people to which each of us is called to minister

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